

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes. The Administrator has received a complete application for a groundwater discharge permit modification, NEV94002, from the following Permittee:

Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.
P.O. Box 29
Elko, Nevada 89803

The Permittee operates a gold mining complex in Elko and Eureka Counties, northwest of Carlin, Nevada. The Permittee is authorized to discharge liquid domestic wastewater generated by its workforce from two Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs) package treatment plants and two septic tanks to the composite-lined North Block Tailings Impoundment (NBTI). The Permittee has proposed several modifications of how the domestic waste generated at the complex is handled including:

- operation of the RBCs for settling and grinding only, not biological treatment;
- removal of treatment standards and monitoring requirements for both RBCs;
- removal of requirement for a Nevada Certified Operator to supervise the operation of the two RBCs;
- discharge of settled and ground RBC and septic tank solids to the NBTI; and
- discharge of holding tank and portable toilet fluids and solids to the RBCs.

The permit expiration date, April 6, 2004, will not be modified by the proposed action.

On the basis of preliminary review of the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes and implementing regulations, the Administrator proposes to issue the modified permit to discharge, NEV94002, subject to certain effluent limitations.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding permit issuance or request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control should submit their comments or request, in writing, within thirty (30) days either in person or by mail to:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
333 West Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851

Comments or objections must be received within the thirty (30) day comment period, which begins on the date of this publication. Comments and/or hearing requests postmarked or received via facsimile or e-mail before 5:00 PM November 16, 2002 will be considered in the formulation of final determination(s) regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. A public notice of such hearing will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and objections will be considered at that time.

The application, proposed permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by calling Bruce Holmgren of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9423, or at bholmgre@nedp.state.nv.us. The office facsimile number is (775) 687-4684. Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you know would be interested in this matter.